



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 6861

LCO No. 3965



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 For purposes of this chapter:

4 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

5 (2) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

6 (3) "Marital and family therapy" means the evaluation, assessment,
7 diagnosis, counseling, management and treatment of emotional
8 disorders, whether cognitive, affective or behavioral, within the
9 context of marriage and family systems, through the professional
10 application of individual psychotherapeutic and family-systems
11 theories and techniques in the delivery of services to individuals,
12 couples and families.

13 Sec. 2. Section 20-195b of the general statutes is repealed and the

14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

15 (a) Except as provided in section 20-195f, no person shall practice
16 marital and family therapy unless he or she is licensed in accordance
17 with the provisions of section 20-195c, as amended by this act.

18 (b) No person shall use the title "licensed marital and family
19 therapist" or "licensed marital and family therapist associate" unless he
20 or she is licensed in accordance with the provisions of section 20-195c,
21 as amended by this act.

22 Sec. 3. Section 20-195c of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

24 (a) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
25 shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that such
26 applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program specializing
27 in marital and family therapy [from] offered by a regionally accredited
28 college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training
29 program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage
30 and Family Therapy Education, offered by a regionally accredited
31 institution of higher education; (2) completed a supervised practicum
32 or internship with emphasis in marital and family therapy supervised
33 by the program granting the requisite degree or by an accredited
34 postgraduate clinical training program, accredited by the Commission
35 on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, offered
36 by a regionally accredited institution of higher education in which the
37 student received a minimum of five hundred direct clinical hours that
38 included one hundred hours of clinical supervision; (3) completed a
39 minimum of twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience,
40 including at least (A) one thousand hours of direct client contact
41 offering marital and family therapy services subsequent to being
42 awarded a master's degree or doctorate or subsequent to the training
43 year specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (B) one
44 hundred hours of postgraduate clinical supervision provided by a

45 licensed marital and family therapist; and (4) passed an examination
46 prescribed by the department. The fee shall be three hundred fifteen
47 dollars for each initial application.

48 (b) Each applicant for licensure as a marital and family therapist
49 associate shall present to the department satisfactory evidence that
50 such applicant has: (1) Completed a graduate degree program
51 specializing in marital and family therapy offered by a regionally
52 accredited college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical
53 training program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for
54 Marriage and Family Therapy Education, offered by a regionally
55 accredited institution of higher education; and (2) passed an
56 examination prescribed by the department. The fee shall be one
57 hundred twenty-five dollars for each initial application.

58 (c) The department may grant licensure without examination,
59 subject to payment of fees with respect to the initial application, to any
60 applicant who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage
61 and family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the
62 United States, provided such state, territory or commonwealth
63 maintains licensure or certification standards which, in the opinion of
64 the department, are equivalent to or higher than the standards of this
65 state. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant
66 against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the
67 subject of an unresolved complaint.

68 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually
69 in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for such
70 renewal shall be three hundred fifteen dollars. Each licensed marital
71 and family therapist or marital and family therapist associate applying
72 for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the
73 commissioner of having participated in continuing education
74 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
75 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
76 education programs, which shall include not less than one contact

77 hour of training or education each registration period on the topic of
78 cultural competency, (2) delineate qualifying programs, (3) establish a
79 system of control and reporting, and (4) provide for waiver of the
80 continuing education requirement for good cause.

81 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an applicant
82 who is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and
83 family therapist in another state, territory or commonwealth of the
84 United States that does not maintain standards for licensure or
85 certification that are equivalent to or higher than the standards in this
86 state may substitute three years of licensed or certified work
87 experience in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined in
88 section 20-195a, as amended by this act, in lieu of the requirements of
89 subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195c

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Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-195c

Statement of Purpose:

To allow for the licensure of marital and family therapist associates.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]